

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

VIA: COURIER
(AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH No. WHS-A-1095

2003

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

CLASSIFICATION

MAY 18 1954

TO : LINCOLN

DATE:

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala []

INFO: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS - K-PROGRAM

SPECIFIC— U.S. Involvement in PBSUCCESS

1. On the basis of intensive discussions over this issue with individuals whom PAGE considers representative in the sense of reflecting the views of a significant segment of the politically conscious part of the Guatemalan people, it can be stated that the active participation of U.S. elements in the pursuit of PBSUCCESS objectives is a definite and important asset whose exploitation should be pushed to the absolute limit. This realization is all the more striking inasmuch as PAGE had been led to anticipate that even patriotic and anti-communist members of the Guatemalan resistance would resent our role and insists that this was a matter to be settled strictly within the domestic pale. Quite on the contrary, it appears that Guatemalans accept our premise that the U.S. has a vital and overriding interest in denying the USSR a lodgement on Guatemalan soil and believe that our protestations of disinterest in the promotion of U.S. business interests in Guatemala as a by-product of PBSUCCESS, are sincere. ESQUIRE and PAGE are agreed that the aforesaid applies without qualification in the case of [] and it can safely be assumed that other members of [] profession will react likewise.
2. In the light of the conclusions presented in paragraph 1, it is requested that you consider suggesting to the Secretary of State that at an opportune occasion a statement be issued to the effect that "the U.S. is as a matter of course taking a sympathetic and active interest in the courageous efforts of Guatemalans from all walks of life to ward off communist attempts to destroy the freedom and independence of Guatemala." Such a statement, in the opinion of PAGE, could be, by no stretch of the imagination, construed as a unilateral intervention in the domestic affairs of Guatemala, but will be accepted as a corollary to the Secretary of State's statement at Caracas, that the domination of the political institutions of any American state, "would be a threat to the sovereignty and independence of us all, endangering the peace of America and calling for appropriate action in accordance with existing treaties."
3. It should be pointed out here that an official statement of the kind suggested above would in a material way contribute to the success of our mission. At this particular juncture it would be

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immensely heartening to the many Guatemalans who are at a loss to comprehend the seeming indifference of the U.S. to what is going on in their country (academic discourses upon the threat of communism fail to impress them as harbingers of forceful action). In conjunction with increasing manifestations of powerful backing behind PESUCCESS, it would facilitate to a measurable extent the defection of ranking Army personnel. It would undoubtedly stiffen the backs of those political elements which now seem resigned to communist ascendancy and it would push off the fence certain individuals who feel that no enterprise of this kind can possibly succeed unless the U.S. puts the full weight of its moral and material power behind it.

4. May we request that this proposal be given serious consideration and that this station be kept advised on what effective steps have been taken to translate it into effective and timely action.

Graham I. Page

17 May 1954

GLP/cmh

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